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Senate Bill _____
By _____

House Bill No.HJR0044
By Head

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 461 of the 98th General Assembly to review the state's petroleum underground storage tank regulatory program and to examine and evaluate alternative funding mechanisms therefor.

WHEREAS, the "Tennessee Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Act", codified at Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 215, provides for the creation of a coordinated statewide petroleum underground storage tank program in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, to prevent degradation of the environment, and to conserve natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the responsible stewardship of our fragile environment demands that state government ensure the safe storage of all petroleum products; and

WHEREAS, the vital importance of the state's petroleum underground storage tank regulatory program to the preservation and safe maintenance of our environment also demands that the funding mechanisms for such program be financially sound and sufficient to ensure the continued administration of an effective program; and

WHEREAS, in response to the problems confronting the self-sufficiency of the program's funding mechanism, House Joint Resolution No. 461 of the 98th General Assembly created a

special joint committee to review Tennessee's petroleum underground storage tank regulatory program and to examine and evaluate alternative funding mechanisms therefor; and

WHEREAS, although the members of the special joint committee, composed of legislators, state government regulatory officials and concerned business people, have worked assiduously at their appointed duties, the regulatory and funding issues involved are extremely complex, and the committee has not been able to completely discharge the tasks at hand; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the continued responsible stewardship of our fragile environment and the protection of the public safety, health and welfare that the mandate of the special joint committee should be continued; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the special joint committee created by House Joint Resolution No. 461 of the 98th General Assembly to review the state's petroleum underground storage tank regulatory program and to examine and evaluate alternative funding mechanisms therefor, is hereby continued for a period of one (1) year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the membership of the special joint committee shall be composed as originally appointed in accordance with House Joint Resolution No. 461 of the 98th General Assembly; provided, however, legislative members of the committee shall be duly elected members of the 99th General Assembly in order to retain their membership on such committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Vacancies on the special joint committee shall be filled by the original appointing authority as established by House Joint Resolution No. 461 of the 98th General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That no later than six (6) months after the final passage of this resolution, the Department of Environment and Conservation shall report to the special joint committee concerning the continued operation, management and financial self-sufficiency of the state's petroleum underground storage tank regulatory program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the 99th General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or reports, to the Ninety-ninth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1996, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.